

M&O
Serials
QL 671
G84

0164-971X

June 1992

Number 6

Volume 74

Berkeley, California

Golden Gate Audubon Society

THE GULL



1992 ANNUAL MEETING: A PICNIC AT AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

We invite you all to join us at "Our Ranch" for this year's Annual meeting on **Sunday, June 28**. We have planned another picnic, but this time the location will be **Audubon Canyon Ranch**. We will begin at **12:30 p.m.** The chapter will provide soft drinks and dessert and you will provide your own picnic lunch.

Our event will be held in the picnic area of Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Ranch is located 3 miles north of Stinson Beach on Highway 1 in Marin County.

We plan to have a short program introducing our new officers and presenting some well deserved awards. With the remainder of the afternoon we hope to enjoy the beauty of Bolinas Lagoon and the adjacent coastal canyons—and perhaps even look at birds!!! Please RSVP (510) 843-2222.

MARIN ISLANDS PURCHASE WITH GGAS HELP IS COMPLETED

Thanks in good part to Golden Gate Audubon's early contribution, which encouraged others to contribute, the campaign to acquire the Marin Islands has been successfully concluded. These islands, and especially West Marin Island, are critically important egret and heron breeding grounds and rookeries. They are now the Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and our Bay will have egrets and herons for many years to come.

Although the final price of \$3 million makes our \$25,000 look very small, our contribution made it easier for the Trust for Public Land, which coordinated the effort, to ask other agencies and the Federal government for money by demonstrating strong community support for the purchase.

Thanks to all who have contributed to GGAS and made this generous showing possible.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Although the Act has weathered three reauthorizations in its 20-year history, the landmark law now faces its stiffest test yet. It is the center of a contentious debate over whether to advance with species protection or retreat to the days of environmental neglect. For a local angle, see page 105.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 10—Mini-trip to Redwood Regional Park.

Saturday–Sunday, June 13–14—Yuba Pass and vicinity.

For details on the above trips see *The GULL* for May.

Saturday–Sunday, June 20–21—Mono Basin. Meet at 8 a.m. at Mono County Park 5 miles north of Lee Vining and just east of Hwy. 395. To get to Mono Basin take Hwy. 120 over Tioga Pass to the town of Lee Vining and proceed north to the meeting place. (An alternate route is around Lake Tahoe to Hwy. 395 and then south to Mono County Park.)

We will spend Saturday birding the north side of the lake looking for common residents in various habitats. After a good day of birding we will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Mono County Park for a potluck (weather permitting).

On Sunday we will meet at 8 a.m. at the turnoff from Hwy. 120 to South Tufa State Preserve. Take Hwy. 395 south from Lee Vining to Hwy. 120 east. Turn left and proceed to South Tufa State Preserve turnoff. We will bird this area and the Jeffrey Pine forest south and east of here looking for Gray Flycatchers, Gnatcatchers and other Mono Basin specialties.

Be prepared for hot bright sun and/or cold wind and rain. The elevation of the basin is 6400 ft. (campgrounds 8,000 ft.) and the temperature may drop at night. Bring lunches for both days (plus

a potluck) and be prepared for some leisurely hiking.

County campgrounds are available southwest of Lee Vining (along Hwy. 120 4 to 6 miles west of Hwy. 395) by Lee Vining Creek, and north of town on Lundy Lake Rd. Motels in Lee Vining include: Best Western Lakeview Motel (619/647-6543), Gateway Motel (619/647-6467), and Murphey's Motel (619/647-6316). Leaders: Helen and Paul Green (510) 526-5943. (✓)

Friday–Sunday, June 26–28—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Join the Murphy family on the annual GGAS family camping excursion to Lassen. In past years we have seen Willow, Hammond's, and Dusky Flycatchers, Black Swift, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker and most of the warblers and finches that breed in the mountains.

The more serious birders will meet at the Manzanita Lake Campgrounds store at 6:30 a.m. on Friday and Sunday. We will bird around the lake for 2–3 hours, return to camp for a quick breakfast, then return to the store again at 10:30 a.m. to meet for another outing. The Friday outing will be a leisurely hike of about 3 miles on one of Lassen's beautiful trails. (We may climb as much as 700 ft.) Wear sturdy shoes and bring lunch and liquids. Sun-tan lotion, a hat, mosquito repellent and warm clothing may also be necessary.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.

Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, office address, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. Special third class postage paid in Oakland, CA.

(THE GULL -ISSN 0164-971X)

Saturday is a special day for everyone. We will meet by the camp store at 7:30 a.m. and caravan north to Burney Falls, Fall River Valley and Baum Lake. Bring lunch and liquids. This all day excursion of about 100 miles will include a 2 or 3-hour swim at Lake Britton. If you forget your swimsuit, the trails at Burney Park offer a wonderful diversion, and fishermen can try their luck in some of northern California's finest trout streams. Since this is a long and tiring day we suggest a get-together for dinner at a nearby restaurant instead of returning to the campstove.

Stop by our campsite for further information. We will have a campfire every evening beginning at 8 p.m. Bring your own chair (and cup of wine if you choose). We will provide hot water for tea or coffee. Check the campground bulletin boards or the office at Hat Creek Resort for our poster and campsite number and any last minute changes in the schedule.

For the Sunday outing we will meet at 10:30 a.m. to drive through the park—making frequent stops for birding. We should reach the south entrance around 1 p.m., depending upon how long we play in the snow at the summit. For this final event, bring warm gloves (and a plastic trash bag for a mini-toboggan).

From the Bay Area drive north on I-5 to its junction with Hwy. 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northwest entrance of Lassen. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available about 15 miles north of the park at Hat Creek Resort, Old Station (916-335-7121). Other information can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral, CA 96063. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (415) 564-0074. \$ (✓)

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (510) 524-2399.

Plan Ahead:

July 30–Aug. 2—Backpacking to Snag Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich.

Aug. 1–2—Yosemite High Sierra Ecology Trip. (Cathedral Lake area) Leader: George Peyton. Campgrounds are available, but for motel accommodations early reservations in Lee Vining are advised. Best Western Lakeview Motel, (619) 647-6543; Gateway Motel, (619) 647-6467; and Murphey's, (619) 647-6316.

(See July–Aug. *GULL* for details of above trips.)

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

OUR RANCH NEEDS DOCENTS

Training for docents begins in September. There will be an orientation session August 26 at 9:30 a.m. Learn more about nature through the courses Audubon Canyon Ranch offers. Experience nature through the eyes of 4th and 5th graders and encourage them to protect the environment. Call the Volunteer Council, ACR, 4900 State Route One, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, (415) 868-9244.



REMEMBER

Sunday
June 28, 1992
12:30 p.m.

Annual Picnic at
Audubon Canyon
Ranch

OBSERVATIONS THRU APRIL 21

It seems easy to characterize El Nino as an all encompassing phenomenon that turns our oceans into warm-water wastelands (I attempted to portray it that way last month), but as with all of the natural world, it doesn't work quite that simply. As biologists on the Farallones worried about a failure of this year's breeding season, the waters of Monterey Bay were teeming with food at the beginning of April—tiny squid and anchovies and pelagic red crabs (interestingly, there was no krill)—and birds and mammals abounded. It felt like fall rather than spring as a pelagic trip on the 4th reported six **Flesh-footed Shearwaters**, as well as five Short-tailed, 80 to 100 Pink-footed and 200 Black-vented Shearwaters, absolutely unprecedented at this time of year (DLSh). In addition, there were ten Black-footed Albatross, 100 Red Phalaropes, seventeen Pomarine and one Parasitic Jaeger, two Xantus' Murrelets and twenty Cassin's Auklets (DLSh), the latter a little disturbing and an indication that not all is well since by now they should all be up around the Farallones attempting to nest. On the 8th, a **Brown Booby** was sitting on the rocks off Pt. Pinos with Brandt's Cormorants (JRu) and there were several groups of Bottlenose Dolphins (a warm-water species) along with Orcas and Minke whale. . . quite a feast of pelagic treasures. On the 6th, what appears to have been a **Laysan Albatross** was wandering down the street by the Mission Rock Resort in San Francisco, presumably a hitch-hiker from some nearby ship (BGo). And to round out the pelagic wonders, a **Wilson's Storm-petrel** was seen in Monterey Bay on the 13th (GK).

Three White-faced Ibis on the 19th to 21st are the first April records for Santa Clara County (PJM, MiF, KP). There was a Tufted Duck at the Hayward Shoreline on the 5th (RJR) and the **Steller's Eider** continued to be reported from Bodega Bay through the 6th (mob).

In mid-April it's abundantly evident that it's spring and birds are on the move. On Easter at Point Reyes, large flocks of Brant and Pacific Loons flew past all day long and breeding-plumage Bonaparte's Gulls swarmed everywhere along the beaches. Lovely Red-necked Phalaropes, living up to their name, were obviously beginning to pass through that weekend and a Solitary Sandpiper was reported from Redwood Shores on the 19th (RSTh). Also on April 19, a Franklin's Gull and Black Tern (another April first for Santa Clara County) were at Coyote Creek Riparian Station (PJM).

A single Vaux's Swift was seen over Oakland on the 16th (MV) and six were over San Antonio Valley on the 18th (DSg). Black-chinned, Costa's, Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds were all reported during the month. A Williamson's Sapsucker, a montane species, was more than a bit out of range on Mines Road on the 15th (fide YMcH). Migrating Hammond's Flycatchers moved through inland in good numbers; a Dusky Flycatcher at Sunol on the 6th and 7th was quite early for that species (SGI, JMR). There was a Townsend's Solitaire at Skyline Open Space in San Mateo County on the 11th (RSTh).

April 1st MacGillivray's Warblers in San Mateo County (RSTh) and Tilden Park (PK) were no April Fool's joke although they were early returnees, as was a Lazuli Bunting in El Granada on the 6th (RSTh). There was a Yellow-breasted Chat at Sunol on the 17th and

two on Del Puerto Canyon Rd. on the 20th (FGB).

Lapland Longspurs continued to be seen at Point Reyes—there was at least one female remaining on the 19th (AD, JaW); Chestnut-collared Longspurs were last reported on the 5th (JM). New early records for Mono Lake included Yellow-headed Blackbird on the 3rd and Green-tailed Towhee on the 13th (fide ES).

OBSERVERS:

Florence G. Bennett, Ann Dewart, Mike Feighner, George Finger, Steve Glover, Bruce Good, Paula Kleintjes, Greg Kruse, Leslie Lieurance, Yvonne McHugh, Peter J. Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Rod Norden, Kathy Parker, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Jonathon Russouw, Debra Love Shearwater, Dan Singer, Emilie Strauss, Scott B. Terrill, Ron S. Thorn, Walter Tordoff, Martha Vaughan, Janet Wessel. Data thanks to Joe Morlan and the Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

—ANN DEWART

“ESTUARYWISE” AVAILABLE

Hot off the press! *Estuarywise*, a citizen's handbook for pollution prevention, is now available from the SFEP office. This 24-page booklet is full of tips for reducing pollution at home, in the garden, at work, and on the road. It contains recipes for safe household cleaners and pest controls, product toxicity ratings, listings of local household hazardous waste disposal centers and much more. (510) 464-7997.

CONSERVATION NOTES BACK TO COURT FOR WETLANDS

About four years ago, GGAS went to court to stop the Port of Oakland's filling and destroying wetlands on what is now called the Distribution Center Site,

located immediately adjacent to Arrowhead Regional Park. It's area of 46 acres of wetlands is all that is left of over 2000 acres of pristine tidal marsh that once constituted San Leandro Bay.

It was once an area so rich in wildlife that it was designated a State wildlife preserve. Nonetheless, San Leandro Bay's wetlands were filled to create the Oakland Airport, Bay Farm Island and, as late as 1972, the Distribution Center.

While tragically decimated by filling, Arrowhead Marsh still is host to large numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds and many other species, including the endangered California Clapper Rail.

The Distribution Center Site, last of these wetlands-filling operations, however, was not completely filled and not developed. When, in the late '80s, the Port proposed to fill and build on the site GGAS, the Sierra Club and Save the Bay asked the Army Corps of Engineers to deny a building permit because the area was still a wetland. The Corps declined jurisdiction and based this on a novel and unbelievably contrived premise. Regulations provide that an area is a wetland if it presently meets the definition of a wetland or would meet that definition under "normal circumstances." The "normal circumstances" language was added to protect wetlands from developers who would alter wetlands (by draining or removal of vegetation, etc.) to avoid federal jurisdiction. Thus, if an area would be a wetland except for some alteration (i.e. under "normal circumstances"—without alteration) then the Corps maintains its jurisdiction.

So, what did the Army Corps of Engineers do regarding the Distribution center? It determined that since the Port planned to fill the site, and had started, then the "normal circumstance" for that site was an on-going filling operation and any present wetlands were incidental and natural results of that fill-

ing process. That would allow any developer to begin filling a wetland and then claim that any wetland characteristics were incidental to his filling, and that his filling was now the "normal circumstance." It would be a terrible precedent!

GGAS, Save the Bay and the Sierra Club, with GGAS as lead plaintiff, sued the Corps. Happily, we won that suit as the judge agreed that the Corps' argument was a lot of hooey! The judge ordered the Corps to redo its jurisdictional determination and determine how much of the site was wetlands.

Three years later, the Corps finally issued a new and again shockingly inadequate jurisdictional determination. Despite our claim that virtually all of the site is wetland, the Corps declared that only a measly 15% of the area is wetlands. Unbelievably, they again used the argument of "normal circumstance" as their rationale. We have appealed the Corps' new determination; we believe our position will be upheld, and hope that in years to come much of the site will be returned to wetlands habitat.

Court proceedings and advocacy before agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers are expensive. GGAS, with your help, will continue to be active in protecting habitat. Contributions, payable to GGAS, can be sent to GGAS, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702.

Thanks for your help!

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

BACK YARD BIRDER

Warblers can be a real pain in the neck! That's what happens when you hear one in yonder treetop, you creep closer, circling quietly, all the while craning your neck to see which elusive warbler is eluding you. Warblers blend

into their environment so well and move so quickly just *behind* leaves so that you are truly thrilled to finally focus on the bird itself. They always seem to be much more colorful than your field guide.

The American Wood Warbler family contains 109 species in the New World, 56 species in North America. They are usually gray, olive or green but are patterned with bright yellow, red, orange, blue, black or white. One way of differentiating them is by grouping them by wing bars or lack of wing bars, tail spots, or not. To complicate matters, fall or non-breeding individuals sport less brilliant colors and some females and immatures can be confused. Along with warblers, the ground and yellow-breasted chats, ovenbird, redstarts, waterthrushes and yellowthroats comprise the family PARULIDAE (par-you-LIE-dee).

American wood warblers live from Alaska to Labrador and south to N. and Central America, the West Indies to north Argentina. In number of species it is the second largest of N. American *songbirds*, second only to finches. Most N. American species are migratory and one of the most exciting annual bird events is the migratory waves of wood warblers, mainly seen on the east coast. One reason I dragged my husband to the Dry Tortugas in springtime was to see warblers without breaking my neck. They literally drop out of the sky, exhausted from the long migratory flight across the Gulf of Mexico. The Audubon Society provides funds to keep water running in a fountain in the middle of Fort Jefferson, the only fresh water for hundreds of miles. You barely need binoculars as the birds line up to drink, bathe and rest. Warblers and other interesting species are perched everywhere.

With sharp bills, warblers are active birds which feed largely on insects. Many exhibit fly-catching aerial acrobatics as they catch food. Redstarts are especially adept armed with bills which are not only sharp but are flattened and rather broad, perfect for scooping insects out of the air.

Here are some of California's more common warbler species: *Orange-crowned Warbler*—Although quite common it is more often heard than seen. A thin, downward trill tells you he's somewhere in the midst of that shrubbery. "Our" race is quite yellow on its breast. When announcing his presence you might see a male on a bare branch, belting out his song at regular intervals. He won't show his orange crown unless he spies his lady-love.

Yellow-rumped Warbler—Once there was the Audubon's and the Myrtle and now those two are considered the western form and the eastern form of Yellow-rumpeds. In the winter here, you may see both. The Myrtle is the most abundant warbler seen in the east.

It has a white throat and a dark ear patch and black streaks on its breast and flanks. The Audubon's has a yellow throat, a solid black chest and shows a bit more white on its wings. Both have yellow on the sides of their breast and wear yellow rumps, living up to their names. In the fall they are tough to tell apart.

Townsend's Warbler—One of my favorite winter visitors is this handsomely marked bird. He has black cheek patches with yellow above and below and a black throat contrasts with his yellow lower breast and white belly. White wing bars and white outer tail feathers complete his garb. The female wears more subdued colors. Luckily, Townsends can't be confused with other warblers. They breed in the Pacific Northwest, nesting at infuriatingly high levels. While here they can be found in a variety of habitats.

Wilson's Warbler—Look for this bright yellow bird capped in black and with a dark eye; he will usually be near water in willow or alder thickets. He's

You Can Make a Difference. Join the Audubon Activist Network.

More than 100,000 Audubon members have joined and are making a difference for wildlife, wetlands, forests, endangered species, and more. Stand up and be counted! To join, you must be an Audubon member and make a pledge to write at least two letters and make at least two phone calls a year on behalf of environmental issues.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (optional) _____

☐ I am an Audubon member. ☐ I am not an Audubon member and would like to join.

My check for \$20 is enclosed. I will receive all membership benefits, including a year's subscription to Audubon magazine. Return this coupon (and check, if applicable) to Audubon Activist, Box AA, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

a master of deceit, resembling all those leaves, but he's usually within 10' of the ground. He twitches his tail in a circle and flicks his wings like a kinglet. Wilson's are capable of aerial cartwheels in their quest for insects. For a few weeks one visits my oak trees, announcing his arrival with a buzzy song.

Common Yellowthroat—Another bright yellow beauty enjoys living near ponds and streams, but will also nest in a wooded area or brushy pastures. The black-masked male is often seen hopping about cattails, scolding you as much as his cranky wren neighbor. When flying across small open stretches of water, from reed to reed, they zip along nearly at water's level.

No doubt part of the allure of wood warblers is their difficulty in being seen. Blending into their habitats so nicely, merely focusing a warbler in your binoculars is a thrill. Perhaps we should spend more time lying down while searching for them? These small birds are truly the butterflies of the bird world; they are technicolor flitting flights of fancy.

—MEG PAULETICH

How **DARE** you . . .

publish a recommendation to shoot cats. How **DARE** you! Some people love cats as much as you love birds. Some people love worms as much as you love birds. Some people love insects as much as you love birds. It's not just Marin County that objects. Here's an extremely angry veterinarian from plain old Oakland who cannot **BELIEVE** what she just read in *The GULL*. You owe your members a retraction and an apology. I am aghast to see such a violent idea in a **CONSERVATION** magazine.

—SUSAN S. HUGHES

P.S. Which of you is a good enough B-B gun shot to accurately hit the rump of a cat? I've seen B-B's hit the spine

and cause permanent paralysis. While that may preserve a bird or two, I shudder to think about the mentality of a person who could do, could recommend or could applaud such a thing. To see the Audubon Society supporting such an idea in print is unnerving. What has happened to your values?

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was thought the footnote disclaiming Rich's direct action approach took care of the matter.

ANOTHER, ON CATS

Berkeley

May I suggest an alternative that works well at our house: we feed feral cats out front, making them less inclined to hunt birds; keep our large dog out back to discourage neighborhood cats from entering the yard where we feed birds; and closely supervise our indoor cats when they romp off the back deck. Of course, the dog also supervises. As soon as they crouch to hunt, the dog gets interested too and goes over to see what's happening, scaring off the birds and turning the tables on the cats.

BOB TREPPA

AND ANOTHER

San Francisco

What Rich Stallcup's advice to cat owners ignores is (1) we love our cats, and (2) they will run from punishment. If you see your cat think about catching a bird, make it come in, but praise it and reward it for doing so. Then keep it in for long enough so the cat understands, and establish zones (free of temptation for the cat and danger for birds) where the cat must stay when it is outside. Be kind to the cat and give it compensation for foregoing its deep desire. Then it will have much more reason and a much stronger impulse to obey, and cat and owner will be pleased with themselves and each other. Thanks!

BARBARA DEUTSCH

GGAS GOES TO WASHINGTON, AGAIN!

Washington, D.C. remains the major focus of attention in the battle for wetlands, our nation's and our Bay's. President Bush has launched a campaign, misleading and cynical, called "Protecting America's Wetlands." It would define half of California's wetlands out of existence (up to 75% of seasonal wetlands) and would deregulate the remaining wetlands so that all would be open to development. Rep. Jimmy Hayes of Louisiana has introduced HR 1330 that would do essentially the same thing. It has, through misrepresentation as a pro-wetlands bill, acquired 170 co-sponsors (more than 1/3 of the membership of the house).

To counteract these disasters (if enacted, our California Clapper Rails, Least Terns, Salt Marsh Harvest Mice, and many shorebirds and ducks would be but memories) Rep. Don Edwards introduced his bill, HR 4255 (see *The GULL* for March, p. 37). It was developed with the assistance of the environmental community, including the GGAS Conservation Committee Chairman.

During the first week of April twenty-six California activists joined more than a hundred others from around the nation for Clean Water Lobby Week in Washington, D.C. This was a week of intensive visits to legislators to get support for HR 4255 and other elements of the Clean Water Act. The week was an undoubted success. Nine new members joined as sponsors of HR 4255, bringing the total to 55, still short of Hayes' 170 co-sponsors. A lot remains to be done, and you can help. Please ask your friends and relatives in other states to write their Representatives to support

HR 4255. A major effort will win the passage of the good bill.

Letters of support to your Representative and the two Senators should be sent now. Except for Senator John Seymour (who is a sponsor of the Senate version of the Hayes bill) and Rep. Tom Campbell who is not yet committed, all our Bay Area people have endorsed the Edwards bill. Please thank them, and juggle Representative Campbell and Senator Seymour.

If you have questions please call me at (415) 282-5937.

ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Art should be qualifying for Frequent Flyer status soon, if he has not already achieved it.

IN THE MAIL

From the Department of Fish and Game in Sacramento, Editor Dave Dick sent along a copy of the March/April issue of *OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA*. It is a handsome, colorful and interesting publication. It began in 1952, and Mr. Dick has been editor since 1981. In its role as "guardian of all our wildlife" the department is taking on new and non-traditional activities. This is a good introduction to the department, and a way of keeping informed about its role in maintaining healthy wildlife populations in California.

Complimentary copies are available by phoning (916) 653-6420 or writing Mr. Dick at the Dept. of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. The subscription price is \$8.00 for six issues.

SUMMER BIRDING CLASSES IN SF

Evening birding classes taught by Joe Morlan will be starting June 9, 10 and 11 through July 21, 22 and 23. All

classes will meet 7-9:30 p.m. in room 621 City College Downtown Campus, 800 Mission St. at 4th. Parking is in the lot off 4th St. across from the building or take BART to the Powell Station.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of the recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert" sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes and the text for all classes is *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society.

Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to the breeding birds, their habitats and bird communities of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American water birds, including divers and seabirds.

Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of land birds including falcons and gamebirds.

These classes are endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Optional field trips may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

Fees are \$55 for each seven week course. Pre-registration is recommended. For information call the City College of San Francisco, Community Educational Services Office at 5561-1840 (area code 415).

CLASSES WITH LUIS BAPTISTA

Dr. Baptista, chairman of the Dept. of Birds and Mammals at the California Academy of Sciences will offer a series of three ornithology classes at the

Coyote Point Museum, San Mateo CA 94401, (415) 342-7755. August 5, 12 and 19 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Bird song is a special interest of his, and will be an important element of this series. Fee is \$45 (less for Museum members).

REQUEST FOR REPRINTS

Authors of articles or publications dealing with owls and wishing them to be listed in the second edition of *Working Bibliography of Owls of the World* are asked to send reprints to:

The Owl Bibliography
c/o Dept. of Biology
Attn. Richard J. Clark
York College of Pennsylvania
York, PA 17405-7199

CONSERVATION CARIBBEAN STYLE

A lecture at the Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Science, Golden Gate Park, Thursday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7, less for Academy members.

"Too many conservation programs are run by scientists," Butler, the Parrot Man of the Caribbean, says adding that such an approach makes no more sense than auto manufacturers sending engineers out to see cars. With boundless energy and irrepressible good humor, Paul Butler has taken his conservation program throughout the Caribbean using national pride to protect endangered species of Caribbean parrots. He runs the Caribbean program for RARE Center for Tropical Conservation. He has done everything from dressing his wife in multi-colored feathers to commissioning reggae songs with conservation themes to get his message across.

GOLDEN TROUT CAMP

Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will be held in the Sierra Aug. 2 through Aug. 22, 1992. It is sponsored by members of the Eastern Sierra, Pasadena, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley, Santa Barbara and Tulare county Audubon Chapters. An informal field natural history program consisting of naturalist-led hikes by resident naturalists will be offered. The camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, at an altitude of 10,000 ft. For details, write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897. Reservations should be made as soon as possible.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to say thank you to Barbara Rivenes. As I enter the last month of my term as president of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, I have a lot of people to thank for making my job easier; however, there is no one who has made the job of chapter president more enjoyable for me than Barbara. Barbara has been the day-to-day leader of the chapter. She is the person who has to do all of the administrative work of the chapter, yet she gets little of the credit for all of her efforts.

As many of you know, Barbara is leaving her position as our GGAS office manager. I think Barbara is among the lucky people of this world, because she is one of those who love their jobs. Her love shows in every way. She has always given generously of her time, her charm, her good spirit and her energy. Her contributions to GGAS are countless. She has run the day-to-day business of the GGAS office, while going the extra mile attending meetings or getting coffee and cookies ready for

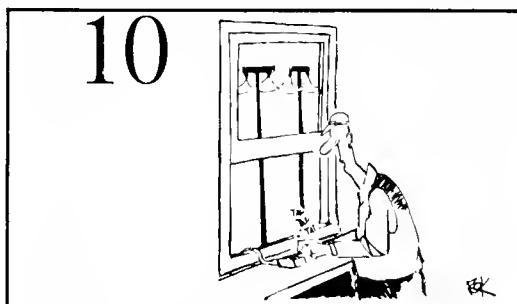
some meeting or another. She has been involved in all levels of decisions for the chapter, and she has brought an absolutely positive and productive point of view to our discussions.

Barbara, I know that I speak for the whole Board of Directors when I say thank you for all that you have done for the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Audubon in general, and all the regional causes and issues that you have helped us work on as a chapter. It has been a great pleasure working with you. We will miss your presence on the daily business of the chapter; we are, however, delighted that you will stay with us as a member of the Board of Directors.

Barb, I just want to go on and on, but the message is simple and unmistakable: thank you, thank you, thank you!

—BRUCE WALKER

AUDUBON'S TEN TOP TIPS FOR SAVING THE PLANET



Write! Telephone! Join! Contribute! Keep passing the word. Communication keeps ideas alive.

- Express your views to your friends; tell them what you are doing.
- Write your local newspaper and your elected officials. Keep environmental issues in the forefront.
- Become part of the Audubon Activist Network.
- Support the conservation organization(s) of your choice. Add your name to the worldwide effort to restore the health of our planet.

THE COMMERCIAL ASPECT OF BIRD CONSERVATION

A letter from DR. CASEY A. WOOD to the Editor of *The San Diego Union*,
December 20, 1922.

I often wonder how many Californians realize what a valuable asset their teeming wild-bird-life is for this State. Not only in the East, but in the Middle West, birds that once congregated along the shore lines as well as in the mountain, stream and sea, are now so sadly reduced in numbers that merely to have seen an individual of certain species once abundant, is an event for chronicle. In very few instances have native New England birds held their own against the hostile forces of advancing civilization. A recent book by Innes Hartley, a well known eastern ornithologist, tells the sad tale, long familiar to the trained naturalist, of the complete extinction of a number of useful and beautiful varieties. He instances, also, the increasing death rate in others and lists the pitiful few,—mostly of small importance,—that have survived and flourished. The beautiful passenger pigeon, our only North American parrot, the great auk, the Labrador duck and many another useful and ornamental bird,—once breeding in thousands and even millions,—are gone forever, while still others are approaching extinction, in spite of state, federal and international protective regulations.

This train of thought, relative to the importance of bird-life, in this state and its vanishing quality, was set in motion by your report, last week, of a projected "mud-hen drive" at Cuyamaca. Now, I have been a rather regular visitor to California for thirty years and have made a study of its remarkable flora and fauna during that period; and I am convinced that the spectacle of your magnificent display of birds, especially of your water-fowl, (the herons, pelicans, coots, ducks, curlews, sandpipers, et cet.), forms a very real and striking attraction for the tourist who, as everybody knows, often remains or returns as a permanent resident. He comes out of the fog and ice and snow of the east to the summerland of the Coast, and one of his chief delights is the appearance of flock after flock of shore birds, marsh birds, water birds and inland songsters in abundance. When the time comes, (and some of your local authorities believe that, at the present rate of diminution, it is not far off), that the Pacific states exhibit as few birds as the middle and eastern sections, one of the compelling attractions that California now holds for the visitor will have disappeared. This is, I assure you, no mere hypothesis; I have discussed the subject with hundreds of fellow tourists from the east and feel that I speak from first-hand knowledge.

The esthetic value of its avifauna forms no mean source of the state income; it may even be of as great monetary importance as is its agricultural value in ridding ranches and farm lands of countless myriads of hurtful insects, of thousands of destructive animals and of tons of noxious weed-seeds. Although these well understood facts furnish solid reasons for the careful conservation of the great majority of our feathered fowl, I waive them as arguments for bird protection and again present the attractiveness of California bird-life to the great army of annual visitors to this state. The presence of wild birds in their normal abundance converts many an otherwise dreary waste of water, sand or mud-flats into charming vistas much appreciated by the weary pilgrim from the east. Surely, such an appeal will have due weight in saving the useful life of every coot and, (I had almost added), of every other water fowl that makes glad California's ponds, rivers and lakes. Every innocent wild bird saved is a national treasure gained.

WAYS TO SKIN AN ACT

(excerpted from THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN of April 22, 1992)

The list of ways developers and their allies ignore and circumvent the Endangered Species Act is longer than the list of extinct San Francisco plants and animals. Governments invariably favor development over enforcement of environmental laws. For them, the tricky part has been to keep people from suing to enforce compliance.

One way to do this is to get someone in Congress to attach a rider to an appropriations bill, exempting a specific development project from all federal law. If this fails, the "God Squad" can step in. Appointed by the president, these guys can allow the last Bald Eagle to be ground up and served as Chicken McNuggets.

Such unpleasant extremes were not necessary to prevent private citizens from enforcing the law on San Bruno Mountain. In 1982, San Mateo County, the developers, and the US Dept. of Fish and Wildlife got together and created the nation's first Habitat Conservation Plan (HPC).

The HPC was based on a \$300,000 habitat survey commissioned by the developers. The Thomas Reid



Associates Study concluded that destroying endangered-butterfly habitat posed "no significant threat to (the butterfly's) survival." That same year, Congress reauthorized a weakened ESA, allowing the "taking" of endangered species under HPCs.

Local citizens sought to stop the encroachment, or at least to limit it to places where native plant life was already degraded. But Southwest Diversified had its eye on the sunny slopes that form the center for the almost extinct Mission Blue and San Bruno Elfín butterflies.

The company got what it wanted and, in return, promised to mitigate the damage by creating new butterfly habitat elsewhere. The 35-year mitigation program is attempting to recreate habitat where none of the conditions exist that made that habitat possible in the first place.

With all its limitations and weaknesses, the ESA has still allowed private citizens to slow down or even to temporarily stop environmentally destructive projects. But by the time the act is tinkered with and reauthorized, we may have little or no environment protections left. What are we going to do?

First, go take a hike on the mountain—this is the most spectacular spring in memory. Then write your representative and senators. Tell them we need them to be activists for a strong ESA and for a citizen's right to enforce it. Tell them to delete the "God Squad" provision, delete the "take" amendment (sec. 10a), outlaw riders, and fund biological studies and recovery plans with the money now being spent on bogus "Habitat Conservation Plans" and ridiculous mitigation schemes. For more information or for guided hikes on San Bruno Mountain, call Bay Area Land Watch at (415) 467-6631 or (415) 921-3578.

—MARK HUNTINGTON

NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education
under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin
and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Gary Holloway, President

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Nicki Spillane

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DOCENT TRAINING AT BOLINAS LAGOON

The Volunteer Council is seeking a few dedicated new docents. Are you one who wants to share a knowledge of nature with 4th and 5th graders who visit the Ranch each fall and spring? Are you one who wants to increase your own knowledge of nature? Are you one who wishes to join with others who share your excitement for learning, for nature, and for the Ranch? Then perhaps you are one who should join our September docent training class. You missed our first orientation day, but a second one is scheduled for August 26. If you are interested please call us at (415) 868-9244.

THE SEASON AT BOUVERIE

The "people news" at Bouverie Audubon Preserve is that our docents led 77 classes of school children, and over 400 visitors on guided nature walks and other organized outings.

Our season is now over, but watch this column for your next opportunity to see the Bouverie Preserve when the guided nature walks begin again in September.

The "nature news" at BAP is of continuing renewal. John Petersen informs us that we had another spectacular wildflower season. As the spring bloom peaked in April, the songs of birds told of numerous nesting species. By the end of April warblers and vireos sang from almost every tree. John still seems to be most impressed by the striking little

Black-throated Gray Warblers which seem to abound this year.

Mammals left their marks as well, most notably a mountain lion scat just a few hundred yards from Gilman Hall. Get this, it was "deposited" on a night volunteers were nearby on an all night newt count.

NEWTs IN THE NIGHT?

Yes, We took two 24-hour newt counts. The rubbery little fellows crawl over hill and dale to reach Stewart Creek where they breed. Few of our resident red-bellied newts were active in the dark during March, but by the second count in mid-April they were quite numerous. John figures their breeding hormones kicked in by then, so they raced for the creek. What have we learned during the six years of our newt count? Probably the main thing is how much there is that we don't know. But we have learned newts are most active between 6 and 8 a.m., and again around dusk. Are they commuters? Do they have traffic jams? We learned that about 86% of the males found were in the creek and only 12% were along the trail. Just who are those newt commuters? Where are the females? If there are answers to these or other questions, I'm sure you'll read about it here when John tells me.

WAIT A MINUTE!

Isn't it too soon to think of the Ranch closing for the season? Apparently not. We've only got about 6 weeks before the gate closes us out until March 1993, so be sure to pack a picnic lunch, a field guide, binoculars and a note book, and then you're ready to spend a day at Bolinas Lagoon and the Ranch. Those herons and egrets will be active on the lagoon, young will be in the nests and the trail will be cool and inviting. I still think the best time to see the Ranch is during the morning as the fog lifts. You

need to be on a trail where you can view the whole lagoon at low tide. Sure it takes planning and a lot of luck, but once you see it you will never forget the incredible beauty. Good luck.

—DAN MURPHY

The president of GGAS is a member of the Audubon Canyon Ranch board of directors, and Steven Margolin replaces Bruce Walker as the ex officio member. Bruce will continue to serve as one of the chapter's designated members of that board.

BIRDING TRIP: CHINA

The US-China People's Friendship Association, a non-profit national educational organization, announces a limited number of spaces available for a \$2749 all expense 21-day birding trip to south China. For information call Marin Audubon member Elain Senf at (415) 332-2781.

This unique opportunity to join with Chinese experts exploring six Protected Winter Bird Migratory Areas where 100 species can be found is planned for Feb.-March 1993.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ordinarily *The GULL* does not include announcements of trips not under Audubon sponsorship. The above is included as a service to members because of the destination.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of
Mrs. Belle Mays

In Honor of
Ruth Dement & T.I.F.O.

In Honor of the Birthday of
Gertrude Allen

Gift of
Mavourneen Harshman

Mrs. Jule Grant

Bruce Hellman

Elizabeth Waldron
Dorothy Cahill
Anita Navon

FOR WETLANDS PROTECTION

In Honor of
Mrs. Claudine Black

Ferol & Marty Egan

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